

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously presented): A recording ink comprising:

water,

a wetting agent,

a surfactant, and a colorant

wherein

the colorant is at least one of a pigment and an aqueous dispersion of polymer fine particles comprising a colorant,

the wetting agent comprises 3-methyl-1,3-butanediol and

the recording ink is at least one selected from the group consisting of a cyan ink, a magenta ink, and a yellow ink.

Claim 2 (Original): The recording ink according to claim 1,

wherein the wetting agent is any one of (1) a combination of 3-methyl-1,3-butanediol and glycerin and (2) a combination selected from the group consisting of combinations of (i) 3-methyl-1,3-butanediol, glycerin and at least one of (ii) 1,3 butanediol, triethylene glycol, 1,5-pentadiol, propylene glycol, 2-methyl-2,4-pentadiol, diethylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, trimethylol propane and trimethylol ethane.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The recording ink according to claim 1,

wherein [[the]] an amount of the wetting agent in the recording ink is from 20 % by mass to 50 % by mass.

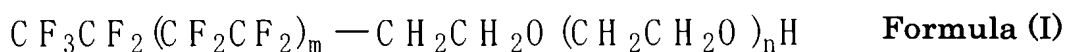
Claim 4 (Previously presented): The recording ink according to claim1,

wherein the colorant is an aqueous dispersion of polymer fine particles comprising a colorant.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The recording ink according to claim 4,
wherein the polymer of the polymer fine particles is ~~any one of~~ a vinyl polymer ~~and~~
or a polyester polymer.

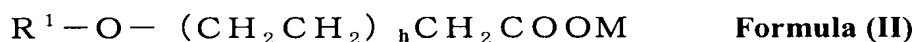
Claim 6 (Previously presented): The recording ink according to claim 1,
wherein the surfactant is one selected from the group consisting of an anionic
surfactant, a nonionic surfactant, an amphoteric surfactant and a surfactant containing
fluorine.

Claim 7 (Original): The recording ink according to claim 6,
wherein the surfactant containing fluorine is at least one of compounds represented
by the following formula (I):

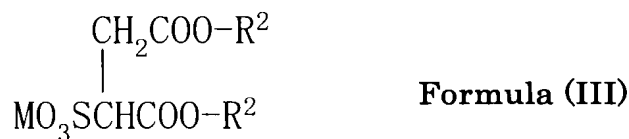


wherein "m" is an integer of 0 to 10 and "n" is an integer of 1 to 40.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The recording ink according to claim 6,
wherein the anionic surfactant, the nonionic surfactant and the ~~ampholytic~~ amphoteric
surfactant are at least one compound selected from the group consisting of compounds
represented by the following formulae (II) to (X):

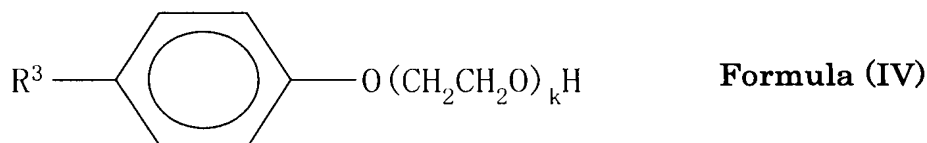


wherein R^1 represents an alkyl group; M represents any one of an alkali metal ion, a quaternary ammonium ion, a quaternary phosphonium ion and an alkanolamine ion; and h is an integer of 3 to 12,



wherein R^2

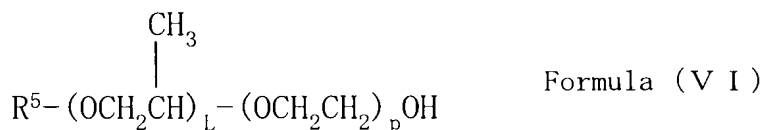
represents an alkyl group and M represents any one of an alkali metal ion, a quaternary ammonium ion, a quaternary phosphonium ion and an alkanolamine,



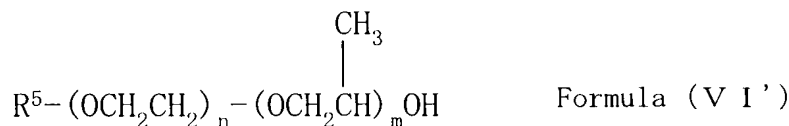
wherein R^3 represents a hydrocarbon group and k is an integer of 5 to 20,



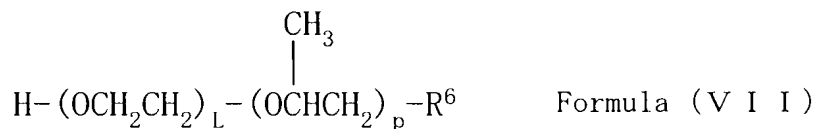
wherein R^4 represents a hydrocarbon group and j is an integer of 5 to 20,



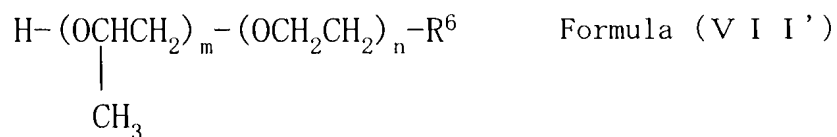
or



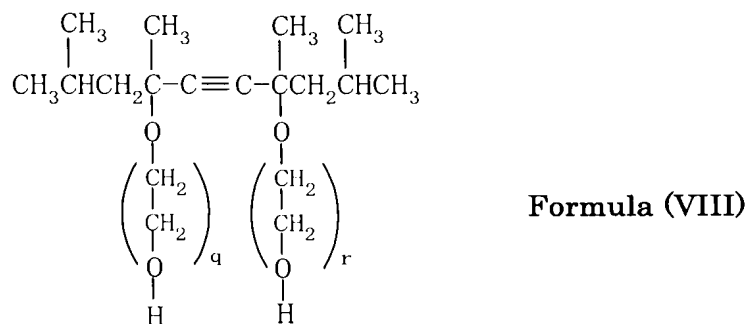
wherein R^5 represents a hydrocarbon group and L, m, n and p are individually an integer of 1 to 20,



or



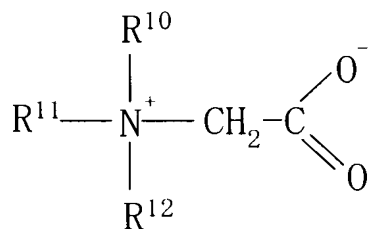
wherein R^6 represents a hydrocarbon group and L, m, n and p are individually an integer of 1 to 20,



wherein q and r are individually an integer of 0 to 40,



wherein R^7 and R^8 represent an alkyl group or a hydroxyalkyl group and R^9 represents an alkyl group or an alkenyl group,



Formula (X)

wherein R¹⁰ and R¹¹ represent an alkyl group or a hydroxyalkyl group and R¹² represents an alkyl group.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): The recording ink according to claim 1,
wherein the recording ink further comprises a C₈ to C₁₁ polyol compound and a glycol ether compound.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): The recording ink according to claim 9,
wherein the C₈ to C₁₁ polyol compound is ~~either~~ 2-ethyl-1,3-hexanediol or 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,3-pentanediol.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): The recording ink according to claim 1,
wherein ~~[[the]]~~ a viscosity of the recording ink at 25 °C is in the range from 5 mPa·sec to 20 mPa·sec.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Previously presented): An ink cartridge comprising:

a container and a recording ink contained in the container,
wherein the recording ink is the recording ink according to claim 1.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): An inkjet recording apparatus comprising:
an ink ejecting unit by which to a recording ink, a stimulation is applied and the
recording ink is ejected for forming the image,
wherein the recording ink is the recording ink according to claim 1.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): The inkjet recording apparatus according to claim
15,
wherein the stimulation is one selected from the group consisting of heat, pressure,
vibration and light.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim
15,
wherein at least a part of the liquid space part, fluid resistance part, vibrating plate
and nozzle of the inkjet head is produced using a material comprising at least one of silicone
and nickel.

Claim 18 (Original): The inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 17,
wherein the nozzle of the inkjet head has a diameter of 30 μm or less.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): An inkjet recording process comprising:
ejecting a recording ink by which to the recording ink, a stimulation is applied and
the recording ink is ejected for forming the image,

wherein the recording ink is the recording ink according to claim 1.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): The inkjet recording process according to claim 19,
wherein the stimulation is one selected from the group consisting of heat, pressure,
vibration and light.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): An ink record comprising:
an image formed on a recording medium using a recording ink,
wherein the recording ink is the recording ink according to claim 1.